

STUDIO LEGALE JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 JUL 2005**Avv. Laura Turini***Diritto industriale, brevetti, marchi, copyright*

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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**Re: International Application No. PCT/IT2004/000010; FUNTO' Robero
 (our ref. R1/FUNTO/04).**

Dear Sirs,

This is a reply to the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority dated 01/06/2004.

The device object of the present invention consists of an electronic microprocessor that, according to an original software program, acts as a watch anticipating the prefixed time, by means of a text-to-speech synthesizer.

The common elements with the other patents relates to the key closing the access to the control box, the possibility to block the plug of the apparatus, the warning signal and the fact that all the devices (except for D3) have been conceived for the parental control on the TV use.

Documents D1, D3, D4 are timers with key-block of the plug, while document D2 is a programmable badge system for controlling the time of usage of vehicles.

Documents D1 and D4 are based on the **amount** of the time of usage of the apparatus and not on the **time** of usage. As a matter of fact, while the device object of this invention permits to preset the exact time when it's possible to use the apparatus, the patents D1 and D4 only determine how long it's possible to use the apparatus and not even when. In the description of this device we have constantly emphasized the need to choose when keeping the TV on.

With those patents, for example, we can neither prevent the youth from watching pornographic programmes, generally broadcast during the night, nor prevent him/her from using the available time all at once, watching the TV for a long time.

It's worthy to note that the authors of the patent D1, Treleaven and McLean, compare their patent with the one indicated with D4, by Maclay: first of all, they distrust its effective working as this last device measures the time of operation of the apparatus "depending on the amount of

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electrical current flowing to the appliance”, which is not so reliable, as many appliances burn electrical current even when they are stand-by; but above all, they underline the novelty of their device, because it emits a sound before interrupting the current (column 1) and because in their patent the interruption of the current is operated by a relay, while in Maclay’s invention this function is carried out by a triac, ancestor of the relay (column 2).

Therefore if the device D1 was considered innovative compared to the D4, also the present invention, which is based on the real time of use of the apparatus and not on the amount of time, must be considered innovative too.

The patent D3 is the only one that makes it possible to weekly preset the connection/disconnection of the apparatus, but it provides neither any warning signal, nor any digital recorder. Thus it's not possible to associate definite vocal messages to on/off periods, which many times it's useful.

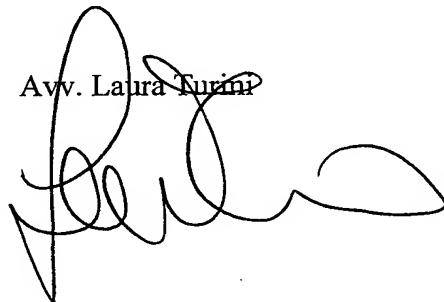
The innovative characteristics of this invention essentially comprise: the control of the time of usage of the apparatus and the connection of the time circuit with a digital recorder. These characteristics permit to use said device in many situations, such as the control of the TV set, but even the interruption of the gas flow to the kitchen, thanks to the vocal signal, or the use as burglar alarm by the diffusion of voices and sounds of normal house life.

Please find enclosed the amended sheets of claims:

- claim 1 is amended;
- unchanged claim 2 now becomes claim 3;
- original claim 3 is cancelled;
- unchanged claim 4 now becomes claim 2;
- unchanged claims 5, 6, 7 now become respectively claims 4, 5, 6.

Yours faithfully,

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CLAIMS

- 1) Device to control and limit the use of an electrical apparatus with a box, closed by mechanical or electronic key, equipped with a hole for the wire of the plug of the apparatus
5 to control, inside which there is a socket where said plug fits, characterised in that it includes:
- a programmed electronic circuit that controls a timer directing the connection with the electric supply at the preset time of the day and the activation of a sound or
10 visual signal, before said connection is interrupted causing the electrical apparatus connected to the device stop;
 - an electronic memory where a message is recorded, which circulates before the apparatus turns off;
- 15 2) Device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it includes inside said box the following components:
- an electronic circuit (E) controlling the timer work;
 - an electronic memory (F) permitting the storage of the vocal message;
 - a microphone (H) for the recording of the vocal message;
 - a loudspeaker (O);
 - a pilot light (P);
 - a control panel of the timer and the recorder (G);
 - the REC and PLAY buttons (I);
 - 20 - a further button (L) with three positions (ON/OFF/BYPASS);
 - a display for the reading of the preset data (N);

a supply unit (R).

- 3) Device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the plug of the apparatus to control fits into the socket of the device, which in its turn is connected to the electric supply by means of a second plug, so that the device is always connected to electric energy, while the apparatus to control is connected to electric energy only when the timer decides, according to the preset programming.
- 4) Device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that it can be controlled even apart by means of a remote control (M), for which it includes a sensor (Q).
- 5) Device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said box has a very tight opening (D), which only the wire of the apparatus connected to the device can pass through, so that the plug connected to it cannot be easily removed from the internal socket (B) that connects it to the control device.
- 6) Device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it can be activated or deactivated according to three different modes:
- keeping it active and ready to carry out the preset instructions (ON);
- keeping it blocked in such a position that does not permit the start and the use of the apparatus (OFF);
- keeping it in "bypass" mode, i.e. in a position where it's possible to use the apparatus connected to it without any limitation (BYPASS).

“Statement under article 19(1)”

Claim 1 has been redrafted, so as to include the emission of a vocal message, particularly important for the function carried out by the system. In addition, considering the prior art, the description of the box has been included in the non-characterizing part of claim 1. Claim 3 has been deleted and the numbers of the following claims have accordingly changed.